

PART III

FIELD SURVEY

The following is a record of existing vegetation surveyed on the grounds of the Harry S Truman National Historic Site (NHS). The vegetation has also been graphically identified on the "Existing Conditions" drawing, (sheet 1). "Location" of vegetation is delineated by compass quadrants and referenced to an adjacent site feature. Quantity, placed in parenthesis, is expressed in numbers and/or sometimes expressed in general terms, i.e. cluster, clump, row, etc. "Observed condition" contains general, brief comments on existing tree and shrub conditions. "Characteristics" contains comments relating to individual vegetation features. "Historic Appearance" is a reference that expresses some visual characteristic of the 1953-1972 landscape. These "Historic Appearance," or H.A., references should be utilized when maintaining the restored historic landscape. Listed vegetation is in alphabetical order according to its scientific name (binomials) and will be grouped under general categories of trees, shrubs, etc.

TREES

Trees that are listed are ones which existed during the historic period (1953-1972) and have been left alone to mature. There has been no obvious attempt to train or contain the trees into a particular form. There does exist physical evidence of pruning where branches have been loped off and many of the trees display the effects of storm damage. As indicated by research, the trees did receive occasional trimming and spraying during the historic period of 1953 to 1972.

Historical Appearance (for all trees in general): Basically trees are allowed to develop and continue through their natural growth cycle. When trees have to be replaced the cycle starts over again. Conceivably there will be various trees at different stages of growth which will be considered acceptable for the historic scene.

Acer saccharinum. Silver Maple. Deciduous.

Location: northeast/fence (1)

Observed Condition: Extremely mature specimen; major damaged area; shape severely altered by storms and unconventional pruning techniques.

Characteristics: The tree is fast-growing, up to 100 feet tall with an equal spread. It has an open form with leaves 3 to

6 inches wide, 5-lobed, with a light green color above and silvery beneath. Fall color is a mixture of yellow and orange. The bark on younger wood is a silvery gray. The wood is weaker than that of sugar maples and subject to breakage. There is 1 specimen.

Acer saccharum. Sugar Maple. Deciduous.

Location: northwest/yard (3); southwest/yard (3)

Observed Condition: Mature specimens; 1 specimen stunted and deformed; 1 specimen with major structural integrity missing (refer to Part IV); all specimens show storm damage. Some exhibit dead branches and are out of balance with natural form.

Characteristics: The tree has slow to moderate growth, up to 75 to 95 feet tall and 2 to 3 feet in diameter at maturity. Stout branches with upward sweep form a fairly compact crown. Leaves are 3 to 6 inches wide, 3- to 5-lobed, turning various shades of red in the fall. There are 6 specimens.

Celtis occidentalis. Hackberry. Deciduous.

Location: northeast/fence (1)

Observed Condition: Mature specimen in good condition. Needs minor pruning to take out small crossing branches.

Characteristics: The tree has moderate growth, usually attaining 50 to 60 feet tall with a trunk 2 feet in diameter. It has frequently divided, upright, arching branches forming a broad, rounded, elm-like crown. The bark is distinctive with a corky outgrowth which develops over the entire trunk giving it an extremely rough appearance. The light green leaves are 2 to 4 inches long and about half as wide with tapered tips, heart-shaped bases, and finely toothed on the edges. There is 1 specimen.

Quercus ambricaria. Shingle oak. Deciduous.

Location: southeast/yard (1)

Observed Condition: Very mature specimen; largest tree on site; shows some unconventional branching effect because of pruning and/or storms; upper branches are potential hazard to the house. Needs cleanup (pruning) of small dead branches.

Characteristics: The tree has slow growth, up to 75 feet tall, and a trunk 3 feet in diameter. The leaves are lustrous, long (4 to 5 inches), narrow, and smooth-sided. Fall color is yellowish. The wood is strong and does not split easily as a result of storms. Oaks are long-lived trees which annually produce acorns which are 1/2 to 3/4 inches long with the lower one-third shaped like a cup. There is 1 specimen.

Quercus muchlenbergii. Chinkapin Oak. Deciduous.

Location: southeast/yard (1)

Observed Condition: Mature specimen; vulnerable form (low crotch with double main stems) to major damage.

Characteristics: The tree has slow growth, up to 50 feet tall. Leaves are oblong (4 inches) with coarse marginal teeth. The acorns are brown to black, one-half inch long, with the lower half shaped like a cup. There is one specimen.

Ulmus americana. American elm. Deciduous.

Location: northwest/fence (1)

Observed Condition: Mature specimen displays affects of unconventional pruning techniques; susceptible to Dutch elm disease. Needs dead branches pruned.

Characteristics: This tree is fast-growing (up to 100 feet tall or more) with nearly equal spread. It has a stately form with a stout trunk dividing into many upright main branches. Leaves are rough-surfaced, toothed, 3 to 6 inches long, which turn yellow in the fall. There is 1 specimen.

Ulmus pumila. Siberian elm. Deciduous.

Location: northwest/yard (1); southwest/yard (1)

Observed Condition: Very mature specimens; both exhibit storm damage and effects of disease; upper branches are potential hazards to the house. Needs suckers and dead branches trimmed. There is possible rot in the trunk.

Characteristics: The tree has moderate to fast growth, attaining from 50 to 70 feet in height. Extremely hardy and tough, but wood can become brittle and susceptible to storm damage. Leaves are 1 to 2 inches long and half as wide, and are smooth and dark green in color. Small flowers appear in spring. There are 2 specimens.

SHRUBS

Shrubs are listed alphabetically according to scientific names (binomials) followed by the common name. They are located on drawing sheet 1 by quadrants and also by a site feature with the number of specimens in parenthesis. Expressed also are vegetation characteristics of foliage, habit, and growth rate. Historical Appearance (H.A.) information will be placed after each plant "location" and "quantity" designation. Shrubs identified for replacement are in Part IV and maintenance of shrubs is described in Part V.

Berberis vulgaris. Common barberry. Deciduous.

Location: northwest/home (1); southwest/home (1). H.A.: Maintain just above porch floor height.

Growth Rate: moderate

Habit: upright, spreading and sprawling up to 6 feet tall; branches somewhat stiff and thorny.

Foliage: densely foliated with roundish, 1/2- to 1 1/2-inch long, deep green leaves

Flowers/Fruit: small yellow spring flowers are followed by showy red-orange, berry-like fruit that last into the winter months.

Chaenomeles speciosa. Flowering quince. Deciduous.

Location: northeast/yard (1). H.A.: Maintain an approximate 8-foot height.

Growth Rate: moderate

Habit: upright 5 to 8 feet tall

Foliage: glossy, dark green, 1 1/2 to 3 inches long

Flowers/Fruit: red flowers are produced in early spring on leafless branches; fruit is produced in the late summer and fall that look like yellow-green apples about 2 inches in diameter.

Forsythia intermedia. Showy border forsythia. Deciduous.

Locations: (a) northwest/home (1) H.A.: maintain upright; trim from between 8 to 12 inches below top of porch railing.

(b) southwest/fence (clump) H.A.: maintain weeping clustered form no higher than alley fence, trim between grounds light on the east, the spirea on the west, and relatively straight across the front (north).

(c) southeast/fence (1); carriage house (8) H.A.: maintain specimen by the fence and on the east side of the carriage house as individual specimens. Maintain specimens on the west side of the carriage house in clump form and allow to weep, but keep from touching structure. Specimen by fence is more upright and can be allowed a height range of 6 to 8 feet. Specimens by carriage house should range in height of 4 to 5 feet.

Growth Rate: fast

Habit: weeping and upright

Foliage: leaves are opposite, oblong-oval, coarsely-toothed, and olive-colored; 2 to 3 inches long.

Flowers: 4-petaled yellow flowers appear in early spring before leaves.

Hibiscus syriacus. Rose of Sharon. Deciduous.

Location: (a) northeast/home (4); yard (3). H.A.: Maintain shrub by northeast corner of porch at the height of the porch handrail; yard shrubs should be maintained at 6 to 8 feet.

(b) southeast/home (1); barn/carriage house (1); yard (1); porch (1); and fence (3). H.A.: Maintain shrub by porch up to height of porch railing; shrubs by barn/carriage house, and

fence should be maintained at 7 to 9 feet high. Yard shrubs should be 5 to 7 feet in height.

Growth Rate: moderate

Habit: grows 6 to 12 feet tall with stiff, upright branches when young and spreading open with age

Foliage: leaves medium-sized, often 3-lobed, and coarsely-toothed.

Flowers: blooms in late August with hollyhock-like flowers ranging from 2 to 3 inches across.

Juniperus virginiana. Eastern red cedar. Evergreen.

Location: northeast/home (1); southeast/home (1). Note: These junipers were found during a 1988 survey and are noted here and on Sheet I for informational purposes only. Because of their planting location and size, they probably do not date from the historic period. Consequently, these junipers should not be perpetuated.

Lonicera tatarica. Tatarian honeysuckle. Deciduous.

Location: northwest/home (1); H.A.: Maintain in an upright height of 10 feet; keep shrub clear of walkway.

Growth Rate: fast

Habit: upright, tall, spreading shrub to 10 feet tall

Foliage: 2-inch leaves appear early in the spring and drop off late in autumn.

Flowers/Fruit: 1-inch fragrant pink flowers appear in May with one-third inch berries appearing in July.

Lonicera maackii. Amur Honeysuckle. Deciduous.

Location: (a) southeast/fence (1); northeast/yard (inside pergola); H.A.: Maintain in upright specimen form up to 10 feet. Note: specimen inside pergola probable invader.

Growth rate: fast

Habit: Upright with arching branches

Foliage: Dark green

Flowers/fruit: light colored flowers, red berries

Philadelphus coronarius. Sweet mock orange. Deciduous.

Location: (a) northwest/home (1) To be removed and not replaced.
 (b) southwest/home (1) H.A.: Maintain at a 6-foot height
 (c) northeast/home--pergola (9); yard (9); fence (3)
 H.A.: Maintain maximum heights of 6 to 8 feet along the fence; 8 to 10 feet in the yard, 10 to 12 feet next to the home and porch; and 6 to 8 feet around pergola.
 (d) southeast/home (2); driveway/carriage house (1); fence (4) H.A.: Maintain 2 feet above railing height by the home, 7 to 9 feet by the barn/carriage house, and 8 to 10 feet maximum by the fence.

Growth Rate: moderately fast

Habit: grows 6 to 10 feet tall with upright branches and frequently is very open and bare at the base.

Foliage: narrow, 3-inch medium green leaves

Flowers: fragrant white flowers, 1 to 2 inches across with a scent of orange blossoms; blooms in late spring

Rosa. (Modern roses)

Location: northeast/yard. H.A.: Maintain a mix of 10 red and pink modern hybrid type roses in the historical 4-2-4 north/south pattern in a cultivated bed. (An interview with Bess Truman revealed the existence of "peace" roses as one of the shrubs.)

Growth Rate: moderately fast

Habit: upright, 5 feet tall, stiff branches with thorns

Foliage: dark green, glossy, oval-shaped leaves with odd-numbered leaflets.

Flowers: fragrant, spectacular, colorful (varieties of choice will exhibit red or pink blooms), 2- to 4-inch blooms that produce throughout the summer.

Rosa virginiana. Virginia rose, wild rose. Deciduous.

Location: northeast/yard (1 cluster of several shrubs). H.A.: Maintain no higher than 5 feet high.

Location: southeast/house (1). H.A.: Maximum height up to porch handrailing.

Habit: growth to 5 feet with thorny, arching branches

Foliage: Crinkly dark green leaves, toothed, about 2 inches long

Flowers: produces clusters of 2- to 3-inch single red flowers that bloom in early summer followed by decorative orange-red hips about 1 inch across

Spiraea x bumalda. Bumalda spirea. Variety: "Anthony waterer." Deciduous.

Location: southeast/house (1). H.A.: Maintain up to 2 1/2 feet.

Growth Rate: moderately fast

Habit: rounded dense growth 3 feet tall with stems of new growth in a lighter color

Foliage: narrow slender leaves are pinkish as they unfold and are sometimes marked with cream-colored patterns.

Flowers: rose-colored flowers in flat-topped clusters up to six inches across in mid-summer

Spirea x vanhouttei. Vanhoutte spirea. Deciduous.

Location: All areas [northwest (8); southwest (26); northeast (22); and southeast (24)]. H.A.: All spireas will exhibit an open, rounded, natural look which will allow some weeping of branches in areas that do not obstruct walkways. All

spireas next to the home will be allowed to grow no higher than the porch railings on the northwest and southwest side of the home. Spirea next to a fence will be allowed to grow as high as the fence. All yard spireas will be a maximum of 6 feet, except for the mass of spirea in the southeast quadrant between the large oak and walkway--they will be a maximum of 5 feet high. Also, spirea by the barn/carriage house (HS-02) will be a maximum of 5 feet high.

Habit: Grows 5 to 6 feet tall with a gracefully arching shape.

Growth Rate: moderately fast

Foliage: Leaves are small, dark green, ovoid, and toothed.

Flowers: Blooms in late spring with white clusters so numerous as to wreath the branches.

Syringa vulgaris. Common lilac. Deciduous.

Location: (a) northeast/home (1), yard (4), fence (7). H.A.: Maintain 8 feet high by home and in the yard. Shrubs against east fence maintain up to 10 feet high.

(b) southeast/driveway (1). H.A.: Maintain at 8 to 10 feet high.

Habit: upright, spreading shrub growing 8 to 12 feet tall

Growth Rate: moderately fast

Foliage: Leaves are distinctively heart-shaped.

Flowers: fragrant lavender, cone-shaped clusters of flowers on the tips of branches in April

PERENNIALS/BULBS/VINES

The following vegetation found on site is listed with scientific names (binomials) alphabetically. The plants are located by quadrant (drawing sheet 1) and referenced with a site feature. Exact quantities are not given, only the area or configuration in which they are to appear. The Hybrid Roses are an exception and are specifically defined.

Convallaria majalis. Lily of the valley. Hardy perennial.

Location: northeast; between driveway and fence.

Characteristics: functions as a ground cover grown from a pip (upright rootstock) that becomes very prolific; small, fragrant, drooping, white, bell-shaped, spring-blooming flowers on 6- to 8-inch stems rising above 2 broad basal leaves.

Hemerocallis. Daylily. Tuberous.

Location: southeast; between walkway and house.

Characteristics: a perennial with clumps of arching, sword-shaped leaves, it has lily-like yellow-orange flowers in summer on

leafless stems that stand well above the foliage; several buds in a row on each stem open on successive days.

Hedera, helix. English ivy. Evergreen vine.

Location: northeast; between driveway and fence.

Characteristics: produces thick, leathery dark green leaves on climbing vines

Iris. (Iris is also the common name.) Rhizomes.

Location: northeast; between driveway and fence.

Characteristics: leaves are sword-like; spring flowers are purple, showy, complex in structure.

Narcissus. Daffodil. Bulb.

Location: northeast; west of driveway.

Characteristics: These spring-flowering bulbous plants are permanent, increasing from year to year, hardy to cold and heat, and ground rodents will not feed on them. Leaves are straight and flat or narrow and rushlike, 12 to 18 inches above ground. There is a cup-shaped center flower with a ring of petals on a single stem. The flower rises just above the leaves, is 3 inches across, and is white or yellow in color.

Paeonia officinalis. Common peony. Hardy perennial.

Locations: northeast; both sides of driveway.

Characteristics: Peonies produce well-grown clumps 3 to 4 feet tall that spread wider from thickened tuberous roots. It has large, deep green leaves with large white/pink to lavender flowers in the spring.

Lycoris squamigera. Surprise lily. Tuberous.

Locations: southeast yard.

Characteristics: This is a perennial with clumps of arching, sword-shaped leaves. After spring foliage dies back, a single stem appears with lavender flowers clustered on top.

Tulipa. Tulip. Bulb.

Locations: A. northeast/west of driveway; near daffodils in a semicircle pattern.

B. northeast/east of driveway by pedestrian gate to Wallace home; random planting.

C. southeast/between walks and southside porch; random planting.

Characteristics:

A. several (large single flower) that finish blooming by mid-April

B. One bright pink and two marbled pink and red mixed in with the lily of the valley plants.

C. Two red tulips in the flower bed mixed in with other ground covers.

Vinca minor. Periwinkle. Perennial ground cover.

Location: Southeast; between walkway and home.

Characteristics: evergreen trailing perennial with small dark green oblong leaves; produces lavender-blue flowers in the spring that are 1-inch in diameter.

Vitis amurensis. Amur grape. Climbing vine. Deciduous.

Location: Southeast; between walk and porch.

Characteristics: produces fast-growing coarse vines, clinging by means of tendrils; large leaves make a dense mat of green foliage and dark color grapes develop in the fall.

TURF

Kentucky bluegrass, fescues, clovers,
and miscellaneous grass and broadleaf weed invaders.

Characteristics: Turf is a strong visual unifying element having significant effect on how the area is perceived. The existing turf is not composed of one strain of pure grass, but has a mixture of exotic grasses, clovers, and weeds. The turf at 219 North Delaware Street has never been meticulously manicured. Consequently, a minority of exotic invaders are acceptable and historically accurate. However, the lawn should display, as it did historically, grasses, clovers, and some weeds blended together in a consistent appearance.

